

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 181  
By Kernell

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Deputy Attorney General Perry Allan Craft for his meritorious service with the Office of the Tennessee Attorney General and Reporter.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those employees who, during their years of service with the State, have performed their jobs with extraordinary dedication and unprecedented devotion; and

WHEREAS, it is also fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should honor those Tennesseans who through their diligence and commitment have made significant contributions to the welfare of Tennessee's citizens during their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Attorney General Perry A. Craft is one such distinguished public servant, a native of Memphis and a product of the Memphis Public Schools, who has given unselfishly of himself, his time, and his remarkable talents to advance the public good throughout almost two decades of service with the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter; and

WHEREAS, after graduating from the University of Memphis with honors and later earning his law degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law, Deputy Craft began his employment as an Assistant Attorney General in 1978; and

WHEREAS, while an Assistant Attorney General, he litigated the first civil antitrust case brought by the State since the 1920s and litigated, investigated, or settled other significant

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antitrust, securities fraud, consumer protection, gambling, and fraud cases, including a number of cases involving the “Rocky Top” public corruption scandal; and

WHEREAS, he was promoted to Deputy Attorney General in 1986 and, since then, has been primarily responsible for the State antitrust enforcement and trade regulation policy; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure as Deputy Attorney General, he has provided supervision or been personally responsible for the first State antitrust criminal cases brought since the early 1900s, which have resulted in guilty pleas and fines in excess of \$1,000,000; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Craft has negotiated, settled, supervised, or litigated various civil antitrust or related proceedings, resulting in the recovery of millions of dollars for the State and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the antitrust field, Deputy Craft has investigated and prosecuted cases against certain dairy companies for school milk bid rigging, against certain highway contractors for bid rigging, against certain auto body repair shops for boycotting competitors and fixing prices, against certain gasoline distributors for price fixing, against certain health care providers for price fixing, and initiated the first *parens patriae* action under federal antitrust law on behalf of Tennessee consumers; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Craft ably represented the Office’s position concerning the jurisdiction of Tennessee Courts over out-of-state manufacturers of infant formula products and the applicability of the Tennessee Consumer Protection Act to price fixing conspiracies; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Craft has also been substantially involved in analyzing the effects of certain health care practices, mergers, and acquisitions under antitrust and nonprofit corporate standards, including certain transactions exceeding \$100,000,000, and resolving issues of first impression under Tennessee law; and

WHEREAS, this brief listing of his many stellar professional accomplishments is by no means complete, but, in sum, Deputy Craft has established a reputation as a sagacious and staunch advocate for Tennesseans in consumer, anti-crime, and antitrust issues; and

WHEREAS, his many professional, volunteer, and charitable endeavors, accomplishments, and achievements aside, Perry Craft is most proud and appreciative of the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Lisa, and their three sons, Alexander, Zachary and Matthew; and

WHEREAS, Perry A. Craft has served the State of Tennessee with honor, devotion, dignity, professionalism, and fortitude for nearly twenty years and should be appropriately recognized as he leaves State employment to enter private practice; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That this body hereby honors and commends Perry Allan Craft for his outstanding public service, for his numerous accomplishments and contributions to the welfare and well-being of Tennessee citizens, for his ongoing commitment to uphold and advance the highest standards of his profession, and for his denomination by William J. (Joe) Haynes, Jr. as "one of the original trust-busters".

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish Deputy Craft much continued success in the private practice of law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the text of this resolution be spread upon the journals of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with the final resolving clause omitted from such copy.